

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 ACDA-12 AID-05
/128 W

-----037398 240823Z /12

P R 231519Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9118
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINTS HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 7791

DEPARTMENT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PINS MOPS OAU CU CG NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS SHABA AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) CAIRO 15452; (B) KINSHASA 6289 (NOTAL);
(C) LAGOS 7640 (NOTAL); (D) LAGOS 7433 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT IT APPEARS THAT
THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE TENSION AT THE KHARTOUM
SUMMIT BETWEEN FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE STATES OVER
THE SHABA PEACEKEEPING ISSUE. NIGERIA IS ONE OF THE
STATES WHICH IS DISGUSTED WITH THE AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS
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IN THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE. THE FMG MIGHT HAVE CON-
SIDERED LENDING ITS SUPPORT TO SUCH A FORCE IF THE "MADE
IN PARIS" TAG HAD NEVER BEEN ATTACHED TO IT, BUT
WE FIND IT HARD TO IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF ALTERATIONS
OR ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT FORCE IN SHABE COULD MAKE
IT ACCEPTABLE TO THE NIGERIANS. FMG LEADERS ARE
STILL QUITE TOLERANT OF MOST CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN

AFRICA AND WE DO NOT EXPECT TO SEE THE FMG
PARTICIPATING IN AN ANTI-CUBAN DRIVE AT KHARTOUM.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE COMMENT OF EGYPTIAN MFA OFFICIAL SIDGI
(PARA 3 OF REFTEL A) THAT THE SENDING OF PEACEKEEPING
FORCES TO SHABA HAS OPENED A BREECH BETWEEN FRANCO-
PHONE AND ANGLOPHONE AFRICAN STATES WHICH MAY WIDEN
FURTHER WHEN THE ISSUE IS DISCUSSED AT THE OAU SUMMIT
IN KHARTOUM CERTAINLY ACCORDS WITH OUR OBSERVATIONS
HERE. MEA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN STRONGLY CRITICAL OF
WHAT THEY REGARD AS THE SHEEP-LIKE BEHAVIOR OF THOSE
FRANCOPHONE STATES WHICH ARE CONTRIBUTING TROOPS IN
SHABA AND THE NIGERIAN PRESS HAS DENOUNCED WHAT IT
CONSIDERS THE NEO-COLONIALIST NATURE AND POLICIES OF
THOSE STATES. PAPERS WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION
HAVE PRINTED NYERERE'S BLAST WORD FOR WORD WITH
OBVIOUS RELISH. FROM LAGOS IT APPEARS THAT THE
KHARTOUM SUMMIT MAY SEE MORE TENSION BETWEEN THE
FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE AFRICAN STATES THAN HAS
BEEN THE CASE IN RECENT YEARS.

3. RE PARA 4 OF REFTEL A, WE BELIEVE THE FMG WAS
INDEED DISAPPOINTED THAT IT WAS NOT ORIGINALLY
CONSULTED BY MOBUTU CONCERNING THE SHABA PEACEKEEPING
FORCE. THE FMG WOULD SURELY HAVE STRONGLY ADVISED
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MOBUTU NOT TO SEEK THE TYPE OF FRANCOPHONE FORCE
WHICH LATER MATERIALIZED. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT
THE FMG WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED LENDING ITS SUPPORT TO
A PEACEKEEPING FORCE IF THE "MADE IN PARIS" TAG HAD
NEVER BEEN ATTACHED TO IT. EVEN THEN THIS WOULD HAVE
BEEN A DIFFICULT DECISION FOR THE FMG TO MAKE, HOWEVER,
IN VIEW OF ITS DISTASTE FOR MOBUTU AND ITS DESIRE TO
MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. AT THE PRESENT
TIME THE "MADE IN PARIS" SCENT IS SO STRONG THAT IT
IS HARD TO SEE WHAT KIND OF ALTERATIONS OR ADDITIONS
TO THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE COULD MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE
TO THE NIGERIANS, MUCH LESS PERSUADE THEM TO CONTRIBUTE
TROOPS TO IT.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9119

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 7791

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4. SIDGI HAS STATED THAT NIGERIA "HAS HAD MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ANGOLA" (PARA 5 OF REFTTEL B) AND THAT MOBUTU SAID "NIGERIA HAD ADVISORY GROUP IN ANGOLA." (PARA 4 OF REFTTEL A). THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRING REPRTS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, MOST PROBABLY ORIGINATING IN ZAIRE, THAT THERE IS A NIGERIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ANGOLA IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO MPLA TROOP UNITS. WE HAVE PERIODICALLY CHECKED WITH OUR SOURCES AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION. ON THE CONTRARY, WE HAVE OBTAINED INFORMATION CATEGORICALLY DENYING THAT THERE HAVE EVER BEEN ANY NIGERIAN MILITARY OR POLICE FORCES IN ANGOLA FOR ANY
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SUBSTANTIVE ROLE. WHEN ANGOLA GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE, A FEW NIGERIAN ARMY OFFICERS WERE ALLOWED TO TOUR THE FIRGHTING AREAS ON THE MPLA SIDE TO OBSERVE EVENTS BUT THEIR VISIT WAS BRIEF AND THEY DEPARTED AND WERE NOT REPLACED. NIGERIAN POLICE MUSICIANS TRAINED THE ANGOLAN POLICE BAND IN ANGOLA FOR A BRIEF PERIOD AND

DEPARTED WELL OVER A YEAR AGO.

5. WE AGREE WITH SIDQU'S ESTIMATE THAT THE NIGERIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF FUTURE SHABA-LIKE SITUATIONS UNDER THE OAU AEGIS. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO US THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET FIGURED OUT HOW IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE AS A PRACTICAL MATTER TO GET PROMPT OAU APPROVAL FOR THE DISPATCH OF AN OAU PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO A CRISIS AREA. MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA SEEMED QUITE SKEPTICAL OF POSSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD DURING HIS JUNE 15 DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WITH THE CHARGE (PARA 7 OF REFTEL D).

6. WE ALSO AGREE WITH SIDQI THAT THE FMG IS BY NO MEANS AS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CUBANS AS IS THE GOE. EVEN THOUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SHABA HAS INCREASED THE FMG'S CONCERN REGARDING CUBAN ACTIVITIES, AND EVEN THOUGH GENERAL OBASANJO HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT THE FMG OPPOSES ALL EXTRA-AFRICAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS, THE FMG LEADERS ARE STILL QUITE TOLERANT OF MOST CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. THEY APPROVED OF CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITY TO SUPPORT THE NETO GOVERNMENT, THEY PRIVATELY APPROVED OF CUBA'S SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AGAINST SOMALIA, AND THEY STILL BELIEVE THAT THE THREAT OF FUTURE CUBAN ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL HELPFULLY INFLUENCE WESTERN

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EAGERNESS TO ALTER THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA, RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. WE DO NOT SEE THE FMG PARTICIPATING IN AN ANTI-CUBAN DRIVE AT THE OAU SUMMIT.

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